

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

# Inside Wallops

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

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## ***International Space Station on Target***

With the first launch nine months away, representatives of the 15 nations building the International Space Station gathered in Houston last week to finalize the station's assembly sequence and confirm that construction remains on target.

"All of the partners reported they were on schedule with their contributions to the station," International Space Station program Manager Randy Brinkley said. "The first elements, the Functional Cargo Block and U.S. Node 1, remain on track for launches next year. In September, during a General Designer's Review for the third element, the Russian Service Module,

we were reassured by the Russian Space Agency that they can meet the scheduled launch data of December 1998."

The first station element, the U.S.-funded, Russian-built Functional Cargo Block, is on track for a launch in June 1998.

Further information on the International Space Station is available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://station.nasa.gov>

## ***NASA Receives Approval to Launch Cassini Mission***

NASA received formal approval from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) October 3 to proceed toward the launch of the robotic Cassini mission to explore Saturn and its moon Titan.

NASA and its interagency partners have done an extremely thorough job of evaluating and documenting the safety of the Cassini mission. I have carefully reviewed these assessments and have concluded that the important benefits of this scientific mission outweigh the potential risks," said OSTP Director Dr. John H. Gibbons, who signed the launch approval.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said, "I am confident in the safety of the Cassini mission, and I fully expect that it will return spectacular images and scientific data about Saturn, in the same safe and successful manner as the Voyager, Galileo and Ulysses missions."

White House launch approval was required by presidential directive due to the type of power source (Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators) used to provide electrical power for the Cassini spacecraft and its scientific instruments, and the heater units (Radioisotope Heater Units) that it carries to keep the spacecraft's instruments and electronics warm in deep space.

## ***Wallops Reorganization Meeting Scheduled***

Wallops civil service employees are invited to a reorganization meeting to be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, in Bldg. D-10. The meeting will begin with a general overview of the proposed changes within the Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate (Code 800) and then proceed to discuss the organizational changes associated with the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate (AETD); the Systems, Technology, and Advanced Concepts (STAAC) Directorate; the Flight Projects Directorate; and the Management Operations Directorate.

Separate parallel sessions will then follow for those interested in further discussing specific aspects of these organizations to which people from Wallops will be badged, including the various Engineering Centers within AETD.

## ***Launch Update***

The launch from the Wallops Flight Facility of the Orbital Sciences Corp. Pegasus rocket carrying the Air Force STEP-4 satellite is scheduled for no earlier than Saturday, Oct. 18. The launch window extends from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.



*Tom Williams (top) and Lou Massar (bottom), CSC, prep a payload for nose cone deployment test. The Mission Research Corp. plasma physics payload is scheduled for launch Nov. 27 - Dec. 10 from Svalbard, Norway on a Black Brant IX sounding rocket. PAO Digital Photo*

## ***Wallops News Shorts.....***

A Black Brant IX sounding rocket carrying a solar physics payload for the Naval Research Laboratory was successfully launched Sept. 30 from the White Sands Missile Range. The mission was a coordinated observing campaign with the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory coronal instruments to produce a unique data set describing the physical conditions of the quiet Sun. The payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Guenther Brueckner, and the payload manager was Frank Lau (Code 832).

A cosmic and heliospheric physics payload was successfully launched on a NASA scientific balloon Oct. 4 from Ft. Sumner, NM. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a University of Chicago payload, which was recovered. The principal investigator was Dietrich Muller.

***Influenza and the Influenza Vaccine***

Commonly called the “flu”, influenza is a viral infection of the nose, throat, bronchial tubes, and lungs. It is highly contagious and affects all age groups. The virus is spread through respiratory droplets propelled into the air when infected persons cough or sneeze.

Symptoms may include fever, sore throat, pain behind the eyes, chills, cough, body aches and headache. Bacterial pneumonia is the most common and most serious complication for high risk individuals.

Vaccination is the most effective measure for controlling effects of the flu. In order to be protected during the peak months of the “flu season” (late December through early March), the optimal time to receive the vaccine is during October and November.

Anyone who wants to prevent infection, reduce the severity of the illness, or reduce the chance of transmitting the virus should receive the vaccine. It is recommended that flu vaccinations be given to those who are at increased risk for complications of the flu. High risk individuals are those who fall into the following categories:

- adults over 65
- residents of nursing homes or facilities that house patients with chronic medical conditions
- those with chronic heart or lung disease
- those with kidney disease or metabolic disease (i.e., diabetes).

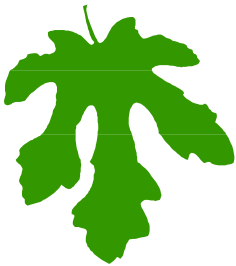
It is highly recommended that those who have contact with the chronically ill or elderly be vaccinated because of the possibility of transmitting the virus to high risk individuals.

Side effects are usually mild. Soreness and redness at the injection site is a common reaction that lasts for about two days. Some may also experience a fever or body aches. Immediate allergic reactions occur rarely after vaccination.

You should not receive the vaccine if you fall into one of the following categories:

- are allergic to eggs or egg products
- are allergic to thimerosal
- have received any type of vaccine during the past 14 days
- have any type of illness with a fever, acute respiratory or other active infection or illness
- have an unstable neurologic disorder.

The flu vaccine will be available to NASA civil service employees beginning Oct. 16. Call the Health Unit, x1266 or x1336, for an appointment.



***The next issue of "Inside Wallops" will be Oct. 20.***

***National Fire Prevention Week***

"Know when to go! React fast to fire!" is the theme for National Fire Prevention Week, which will be observed Oct. 5 - 11.

Everyone should be aware of the importance of responding quickly to the early warning signs of a fire. When a fire occurs, it's too late to start planning a safe exit. Wherever you happen to be and in any kind of building, know how to respond immediately to a variety of situations. This takes planning and preparation before an emergency occurs.



plan, all family members should know two ways out of every room in the home. Establishing a meeting place, in the yard or nearby, once outside the home and knowing the emergency number in your area are important parts of your planning.

It should be stressed that no matter where you are — at home, in a mall, or in an office, there are only a few precious minutes to react to any fire emergency. Fire has no mercy and will not wait.

**Be prepared — KNOW WHEN TO GO! REACT FAST TO FIRE!**

Approximately 80% of all fires in the United States occur in the home. To prepare a good emergency exit

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Wallops Fire Prevention Office, x1707.

***Upcoming MAC Events.....***

***Reiki Sessions***

Reiki sessions will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21. The charge is \$10 for each 15 minute increment. For appointments contact Bev Hall, x1714.

***Spaghetti Dinner***

The Morale Activities Committee will hold a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 24 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Building F-3. At \$5 per person, the dinner will consist of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert and iced tea.

Only 50 tickets will be sold. Contact Brenda Harrie, x1480, as soon as possible.

The Morale Activities Committee would like to have an “interesting” Halloween party. Anybody out there got a plan or suggestion for how to make this year’s party a fun time? If you do, please contact Jan Neville, x1526 or by Email: [Junius.J.Neville.1@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Junius.J.Neville.1@gsfc.nasa.gov)

Volunteers are needed to help pull the event together. Call Pat Pruitt, x1251.



Debbie Watson, (CBSI), spoke to the Atlantic District Ruritan Club, September 10, about the evolution of computers and the Internet.

Betty Flowers (Code 130) represented Wallops with a display at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond, Sept. 27 and 28. Bobby Flowers (Code 830) and personnel from the Navy AEGIS Combat Systems Center assisted in the event which was a part of the Virginia Showcase, Eastern Shore of Virginia Days.

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